

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., JULY 19, 1866.

PUBLIC MEETING.

We are requested to announce that there will be a meeting of the citizens of New Hanover at the Court House, in this city, at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Saturday next, the 21st inst., to appoint delegates to represent this county in the Convention for the second Congressional District, to be held at Goldsboro' on the 25th inst.

A general attendance is desired.

The Governorship.

Recently a nomination of Gen. Ransom for Governor and Gen. B. Vance for Lieutenant Governor, signed "an old line Whig," appeared in the *Wilmington Journal*. We would not be afraid to risk a wager on it, if we were betting men, that the proposition came from a Holdenite, though, perhaps, communicated in a way that may as well mislead our friends as the *Journal*—J. L. Sentinel.

It is probably well for our friends of the *Sentinel*, in this instance, that they are not betting men. The nomination of Gen. Ransom, for Governor, and Gen. B. Vance, for Lieutenant Governor, was received in a letter from an esteemed personal friend, whose adoption has been tried by a close companionship in the trying scenes of the past few years, sufficiently to warrant us to "grapple him to our soul with hooks of steel." He has as little affection for the "Holdenites" as the editors of the *Sentinel*, and we were about to add, as far from any attempt to mislead us; but neither our friend in Johnston or our friends of the *Sentinel* need any endorsement in this regard.

The nomination was made in good faith as the individual preference of the writer. He belongs to that class of our citizens of whom, the *Sentinel* truly says, there are thousands, who will hail with pleasure the arrival of the day, when they can with propriety and without injury to the gallant officers, who led them in the late war, give the substantial evidences of their esteem. Thousands of our people, not only soldiers, but others, desire to give palpable evidence at the ballot box of their high appreciation of the gallant men, officers and privates, who for years voluntarily did battle for them—to return in some degree the undying honor with which they have illustrated the history of the State.

The position of this paper is well known. We deplore at this time any canvass of the State. We would regard any and all attempts to draw the attention of our people away from the great work of rebuilding their private fortunes and the prosperity of the State, by an useless, and, possibly, hurtful political excitement, as much to be deplored. Whatever be the result of such a canvass, it will certainly alienate the friends of the President. The South in her present prostrate condition requires a hearty and cordial union in support of President Johnson, without local jealousies and divisions. Except the few evanescent spirits who have been purchased by the tempting allurements of the strength of the Radicals holds out, the people of the South, are now an unit in their support of the reconstruction plan of the President and opposed to that of Congress. We should not waste what influence our unanimity may have by unnecessary dissensions among ourselves. There is a moral force in the political unanimity of our people no less than in their utter prostration, which must appeal to the conservative men of the North, as it certainly is an evidence of our earnestness and honesty.

We believe that Governor Worth has done, and is doing, much for North Carolina, and as far as could be expected or is natural, has ignored old party distinctions. We have, before and during the war, differed with him in party matters widely, but this does not blind us to the fact that his administration has met the just expectations of our people, and while he has done and said some things which we would have preferred he would have left undone and unsaid, it was not reasonable that we, or others who like us, have so widely differed from him, would have expected him to have complied entirely with our political wishes.—He has done the State good service, and while we feel grateful to him for what he has accomplished, we are more so for what he has saved us from.

The District Convention at Goldsboro'.

The citizens of Wayne county met in Goldsboro' on Saturday last to appoint Delegates to represent that county in a District Convention for this Congressional District, to assemble in Goldsboro' on Wednesday, the 25th inst. Wm. K. Lane, Esq., presided. Among the resolutions reported by Messrs. Wm. Robinson, J. C. Slocomb, Col. S. D. Pool, W. A. Thompson and L. W. Humphrey, were the following:

Resolved, That the several counties composing this Congressional District be, and they are, hereby earnestly requested to hold meetings and appoint delegates to meet in Goldsboro', on the day appointed, that we may confer together on the appointment of delegates to the Philadelphia Convention.

Resolved, That we recommend the appointment, by the chair of a committee of five, whose duty it shall be to circulate in every county of this Congressional District, the call for this meeting on the 25th inst., and urge the appointment of delegates.

Under this last resolution, Col. L. W. Humphrey, J. B. Whitaker, R. T. Fulghum, S. W. Isler and James H. Everitt, were appointed.

Here, then, is a direct invitation to the people of New Hanover and other counties of the Second Congressional District, to assemble together for the purpose of responding to the call for a Convention of the conservative men of the United States to assemble in Philadelphia. We earnestly hope, as the sentiment of the State seems almost unanimously to endorse the call, that our people will take sufficient interest to have every county represented by good and proper men. If we do not misunderstand the call, the Northern people desire the delegates from the South to be representative men, in order that our people can make known their temper and wishes through men who have their confidence, and in whom the North can trust.

We therefore urge upon the people of this county to meet at the Court House in this city, on Saturday next, the 21st inst., for the purpose of selecting delegates to represent us in the Goldsboro' Convention. We trust our country friends will spare one day from their labors in order to show that we are not callous to this first great national movement to bring together again, in friendly contact, the two sections in order to present each other's views in a spirit of harmony and decide what concessions may be mutually made to establish thorough and lasting reconciliation.

We hope, also, that during the week, meetings will be held in the various counties of the Second District for the same purpose, and that the Goldsboro' Convention will demonstrate not only by its numbers, but by the character of its delegates, that our wish to strengthen the President and restore the Government is the earnest object of our people.

We regret to learn that Mr. Robert Ransom, Sen., father of Gen. Ransom, our esteemed Chief Marshal, died at his residence, in Warren county, a few days since. Gen. Ransom, since his residence among us, has gained the esteem and regard of our citizens, who no doubt sympathize deeply with him, in this his hour of severe affliction.

The District Convention.

We sincerely trust that the people of the counties comprising the second Congressional District, will take such action as will secure a representation of every county in the Convention to assemble in Goldsboro' on the 25th inst. Surely the people can devote a little time to add nationality and strength to a movement from which so much is to be hoped. Already throughout the North no such enthusiasm, or in its incipency, has thrown the enemy into such great confusion. The Cabinet, which has really been in rebellion for several months, but has thus far withstood all the former troubles between the President and Congress, now dissolves upon the mere call for a National Convention. The Radicals have a troubled caucus to consider this great national question, and ever since its adjournment, columns have been written and published, without stint in their papers to hide the certain evidences of disintegration then and there exhibited. Congress must adjourn in order for members to look after the elections, and attempt to checkmate this new movement. Even the "high reaching" Minister to San Salvador "grows circumspect" and is not willing to endorse the counter-movement of his Southern brethren and sympathizers, as it may involve him in an "entangling alliance."

From every quarter we have the most cheering evidences that good will come of this Convention, and we already see many reasons for hope. The movement is assuming a great national character, and we cannot afford, either by opposition or indifference to neglect to do what we can to give it strength.

We are glad to see that the people of Craven county have taken action in the matter, and appointed delegates. F. P. Latham, Esq., presided, and Mr. J. D. Flanner, acted as Secretary.—Twenty-five delegates were appointed to represent the county in the Goldsboro' Convention.

We earnestly hope that the call for the meeting on Saturday, will be responded to by a full turnout of our people. It is important that our county be represented by her best citizens.

The Governorship.

The Raleigh *Progress* recommends General Wm. R. Cox, of that city, as a candidate for Governor. General Cox is a gentleman of ability and during the late war won an enviable reputation and rank by his gallantry and intelligence. We agree to all that is said by the *Progress* in reference to General Cox, and we could add the names of other distinguished gentlemen in the State, whom the people would delight to honor with their suffrages, but they do not desire at this time a canvass in North Carolina. It will not do the State any good and may result in much harm. Let us drop all party and personal predilections and unite for our mutual benefit. We hear of no complaints, except from two papers in the State, the Raleigh *Standard* and the Raleigh *Star*.—The one will only be satisfied with Governor Holden, while the other demands, as its *sine qua non*, the Hon. G. W. Logan, and the people will have neither of them. At least let the conservative portion of the press be slow to follow such radical examples.

The New Constitution.

In reply to our correspondent from Joyner's Depot we have to say, that while we are decidedly opposed to the adoption of the amended Constitution, it is not open to the objection which he urges. The Convention was very particular in excluding negroes from the privilege of voting.—Sections 9 and 10 of Article 2 of the proposed Constitution read as follows:

Sec. 9. Every man of the age of twenty-one years, who may have been an inhabitant of the State for twelve months, and of the district in which he proposes to vote, six months next before the day of any election, and shall have paid public taxes, shall be entitled to vote for a member of the Senate for the district in which he may then reside.

Sec. 10. Every man of the age of twenty-one years, who may have been an inhabitant of the State for twelve months, and of the district in which he proposes to vote, six months next before the day of election, and of the county in which he proposes to vote for six months next before the day of election, and shall have paid public taxes, shall be entitled to vote for members of the House of Commons for the county in which he shall then reside.

These sections are explained by sections 9 and 10 of Article 5, which are as follows:

Sec. 9. Every person who may hold an office or place of trust or profit under the State, or any department thereof, and every person who may hold an office or place of trust or profit under the State, or any department thereof, shall be a white person and a citizen of the United States.

Sec. 10. The term white person, as used in this Constitution, shall include all who have less than one-sixteenth of negro blood.

Our friend does the people of North Carolina but justice in supposing that they are almost unanimously opposed to extending the right of suffrage to the negro, even in the most restricted manner. The emancipation of the negro has not added one tittle to his intelligence, while it has, thus far, greatly depreciated his moral character, and the race is less fitted to-day to participate in political affairs than ever before.

The Radicals may acknowledge and desire a social and political equality with the negro population, and we have no wish or right to deny it to them, but you cannot convince either the whites or blacks of the South that this equality exists.

The Freedmen's Bureau Bill.

The telegraph announced on yesterday, that the President had vetoed the second Freedmen's Bureau bill, which we confidently expected from the day of its passage. He could do nothing less and be true to the great constitutional principles upon which he has thus far founded his administration. He knew full well that his message, however well sustained by the Constitution and the good of the country, would have no more weight with the partisans of Congress than the paper upon which it was written; but no questions of policy is permitted to step between him and the will of the Republic. The indecent haste with which the bill was passed over the veto, without consideration, without an attempt to reply to the great questions of constitutionality and economy contained therein, without the respect due the President and his able and dignified message, is characteristic of the illiberal and vindictive temper of the party which controls the National Legislature. Congress, at the price of its own infamy, is enabling President Johnson to hand down a name to posterity, of which the country will ever be proud.

We refer our readers to the bill on the first page, as passed by Congress over the veto of the President.

Raleigh & Gaston Railroad.

The Raleigh papers inform us that at a meeting of the Directors of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, held in that city on Saturday last, General W. G. Lewis, of Edgecombe, was elected Superintendent, and Captain Richard Ashe, of Orange, Roadmaster. We congratulate the Stockholders of that road on the selections. Both of these gentlemen will reflect credit upon the Board of Directors and will be of great service to the road.—The good sense exhibited by the new Directors in the selection of these gentlemen to fill the very important positions to which they have been elected, is the best reply the *Sentinel* could offer in to the charges of the *Standard* that Governor Worth was prostituting the railroads for party purposes.

The New Constitution.

We took occasion a few days since to give in detail some of the objections we entertained to the adoption of the Constitution as amended by the Convention. We are glad to be able to lay before our readers to-day, the following letter from that sterling patriot and eminent jurist, Judge Manly, to his constituents of Craven County, which we take from the *Newbern Commercial*. We surrender our editorial space to this letter, and as the time at which the people of the State will be called upon to express their opinion at the ballot box upon this important change, is but short, we shall refer to this subject again at an early day. The letter of Judge Manly, addressed to the "People of Craven County," is as follows:

Having been one of your representatives in the late Constitutional Convention, and being, in my opinion, deemed it incumbent on me to give you some account of the public acts of those bodies. The Constitution adopted by the Convention at last adjourned is to be submitted to you, with the other people of the State, for ratification, on the 21st of July. I am, therefore, desirous to have especially proper at once, to give some account of the changes made in that instrument that you may vote understandingly upon it.

Let the ninth section of the Bill of Rights, declaring "no freeman shall be convicted of any crime but by the unanimous verdict of a jury of good and lawful men in open court as heretofore," has been so far modified as to allow the legislature to provide other modes of trial for petty misdemeanors, with a right of appeal.

The Bill of Rights has also been amended by the introduction of the amendment, "That slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than for crimes whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be and is hereby forever prohibited within the State." This change in our social condition, suddenly and without warning, is being deprived by me, but it became a necessity and could not be avoided.

2. In the legislative department two important changes have been made. One in the basis of representation for the House of Commons; the other on the power of the Legislature to levy taxes or to send out of the people, or to make pledges for any such objects.

The noticeable change in the basis is, that representation in the Commons is to be apportioned to the white population, instead of the white and three-fifths of the colored, as heretofore. By this the colored race is excluded from representation. It is considered by me a highly objectionable feature in the new Constitution. It violates the great fundamental principle, that representation in the popular branch of the Legislature should be in proportion to population (the whole population). It has never been asserted, until now, by the Radicals, that the colored race should be apportioned to the voting population. Wherever the representative principle has been adopted, classes are excluded from voting from considerations of public policy, as in the case of women, minors, aliens, persons not domiciled, and the like. These are viciously represented, and are properly excluded from the franchise. But, while public policy would exclude the colored race from the right of suffrage, they ought, in my judgment, unquestionably to be counted in arranging a basis of representation. The partial representation of this class in the Congress of the United States, was a concession to the principle of equality, and the North, that slaveholders regarded simply as property. The same may be said of the similar feature in our State Constitution. The allegation can now no longer be made.

The second amendment in the legislative department above referred to, and for the details of which I refer you to Art. V, Sec. 23, of the new Constitution, met my hearty concurrence and support.

3. The new Constitution provides an additional officer in the Executive department, called the Lieutenant-Governor, whose duty it will be to preside in the Senate, and to take the place of the Governor in the event of his resignation, disability or absence. This amendment involves no principle, and subjects the people to little additional expense, and is a change, therefore, which I suppose may be allowed to pass without comment.

A change has been made in the Judicial department, which I think was needless, and to which objection may possibly be made. The Supreme Court, according to legislative provision, sat twice per annum in the city of Raleigh. This was of course subject to be changed by the Legislature will; but now it is provided in the new Constitution that the court must sit in Raleigh, and no where else, twice per annum, and no fewer times. I am for inserting in the fundamental laws important principles only, and leaving details to be settled by the Legislature from time to time, as public policy and interest may require.

This department of the Constitution is amended also by giving the election of justices of the peace to the people in districts of the respective counties, to be laid off by the next General Assembly. It is provided there shall not be more than two for every one thousand inhabitants, with three additional ones for every county seat and incorporated city or town. The number of justices of the peace for Craven contained 16,268 inhabitants, so that the maximum number of justices to which we would be entitled under the Constitution would be 32, with three on account of the incorporated city of Newbern, making 35. While I have doubts as to the expediency of this feature in our new organic law, I submit it to your experience and judgment and shall abide results very cheerfully.

5. The disqualification for office on account of religious disbelief, was amended in 1861 so as to include all persons of the Jewish faith. This amendment has been re-incorporated in the new Constitution, as will be found by reference to the phraseology now used in Art. V, Sec. 1. In this amendment I heartily concur.

6. In Art. VII, Sec. 3, a form of oath is indicated for all State officers entering on the discharge of their duties. This is a novelty in our Constitution and different from the form prescribed by law in the Revised Code, chap. 76, Sec. 4. The interpolation of this section seems to be intended to change our respective relations to the National Government in some way. By sinking the old form of oath, which promised "faith and true allegiance to the State," a fundamental principle of our Federal relations seems to be ignored or denied. I object to it as "ex post facto," in the great argument as to State rights which it now comes up to hold. The sense and patriotism of the country, I object to it as a side blow at a principle which ought to be met fairly and openly, if met at all, and as calculated to debase the State from the condition of sovereignty and dignity which it has ever been supposed to occupy, to the condition of a dependency to the United States. I desire to maintain the relations between the National and State governments, without abating a tittle from either. As our democratic fathers have settled them, so I wish to keep them with all proper honor to each in its legitimate sphere of action. I am for keeping the oath of office as our fathers framed it, and as they have kept it when reviewing their organic laws from time to time, down to the present day. I want nothing more. I am unwilling to take anything less. This change is deemed a grave difficulty in accepting the new Constitution.

7. Further alterations of our fundamental laws, are by the new Constitution, confined to conventions of the people, called by two-thirds of all the members of each House of the General Assembly. There are to be no more amendments by concurrent votes of successive legislatures. This makes all future change more difficult of attainment, and should admonish us to think well, and to understand thoroughly before we give to the new instrument sanction as the permanent fundamental law of the land.

The alterations which I have noted above are all of any importance that have been made in the Constitution, according to my understanding of it. In all other respects, it remains substantially as it was before. It is now submitted to you as a whole, and the question for you to decide is whether you will take it with its defects, such as they are, or continue to live under the Constitution in its present state.

This question was of course presented to me as one of our representatives at the close of our labors, and I felt it to be my duty to vote against

the Constitution as a whole. In this I was actuated by objections to its details, as above set forth, and also by a conviction entertained in the beginning of our second session, which has gathered strength by subsequent reflection, that the Convention had no power to act outside of the scope assigned it by the military authorities. The President for reconstructing the State, and when that was done its vitality was exhausted. It could not in any sense as a Constitutional convention of the people of North Carolina, invested with their sovereign power, and authorized to exert it in their behalf, because, not called together and organized in the mode pointed out by law. It was a part of the military organization for rehabilitating the State; and when the President proclaimed that affair completed, and the State again in the Union and invested with its customary powers, the Convention, as well as all other parts of the machinery used, was thereby legally dissolved.

If the Convention was not Constitutionally and legally called, its work is without validity, and cannot be helped by the sanction of a popular vote. This is understood to have been settled by the legal decisions of matters growing out of Rhode Island's attempt to change her organic law a few years since, and if the Convention had been constitutional in its organization, it was contrary to all sound doctrine in representative governments that it should perform work outside of that which it was appointed to perform. The Convention was appointed, as I understand, to perform certain acts which were told were conditions precedent to our readmission to the enjoyment of rights as a State. We were elected, I take it, because of a supposed fitness for this special service. To avail ourselves of an appointment, because it happens to have no express limitation to its objects, and go into a general reorganization of the State, would be to ignore the sort was contemplated, does not consist with my sense of representative propriety.

I have thus submitted to you, briefly, such views as occur to me in relation to the proposed amendments of the Constitution. I do not conceive why Marshal Benckel should have departed from so humane a rule of civilized warfare. But, whatever might be his reason for a refusal, it is evident from that very fact that the Austrians had remained masters of the field, and this is further proved by the circumstances that the Prussian head-quarters, which had been advanced to Nachod in the afternoon of Wednesday, had fallen back as far as Reimsch that same evening.

"The Austrians, there is no doubt, had the best in this encounter, though the advantage they obtained may have been by no means decisive.—"

Somewhat astonished at reading with no opposition in their invasion of Saxony, the Prussians have been for this last week feeling their way at every point on the frontier of Bohemia and Austrian Silesia, until, wearied with their vain efforts to push forward through no less than three of the mountain defiles, they have been obliged to retreat. At Turnau, Trautman and other places they drove back the Austrian outposts; but as their columns advanced, they found themselves in presence of the army of Benedek, which, massed behind Josephstadt and Pardubitz, had long been on the watch for them, and was ready for a spring upon them, had time to draw up and deploy their forces in the open country. So far as it is possible to judge from the imperfect and somewhat conflicting reports we have received, it would be natural to infer that the onward march of Prussian invasion has been checked for the present, and that a further advance into Bohemia will be found impracticable.

"We do not know how much weight should be given to the partial success of the army under Prince Frederick Charles at Turnau and Trautman, but it must needs be barren of general results unless seconded by corresponding victories on the part of the army under the Crown Prince. Benedek, resting on the two strongest of Josephstadt and Koniggratz, commands the junction of all the railway lines which lead by Pardubitz, on the west to Prague, and on the east and south to Brunn, Olmutz and Vienna. Had even the Prussian leaders been able to disengage all their forces from the mountain defiles, and to bring them to a compact mass into the plain, they would still have had to compete with an equal and, in all probability, a superior force, and the struggle would have been on the enemy's own ground, where he had the choice of his own positions, and where his railways enabled him at any moment to muster up all the means and resources of the Empire.

"The encounter between the Austrians and Prussians at Osvecin, on the frontier of Galicia, ended, after a ten hours' struggle, in the defeat of the Prussian army, and the capture of the Vistula. The forces engaged on either side did not exceed a single brigade, but the Prussian losses are described as severe. The Prussians seem to have been more fortunate on the side of Austrian Silesia, where they entered Troppan, the principal town, without meeting any resistance. They were equally successful in preventing the escape of the Hanoverians, whom, as our readers are aware, they have been holding closely beleaguered since their first inroad into their king's domain. The Hanoverians tried to force their way at Langensala, where they had only to deal with six thousand Prussians, whom they hoped to overpower. The Hanoverians were, however, beaten back, and marched northward, it is supposed, towards Soudershausen."

The Pall Mall Gazette of June 29 says: "There would be a flat contradiction between the Austrian and Prussian accounts of the battle that has taken place in Bohemia, but for a conspicuous difference of dates. Either side claims the victory; on either guns, standards and prisoners have been taken; and what is, perhaps, even more circumstantial, the dispatch of each commander-in-chief describes his enemy in full retreat."

It is rather singular that the Prussian intelligence has been so far from being deceived by the three o'clock in the afternoon. Nor is there any information in the official dispatch, from the Prussian headquarters of any contest whatever having taken place at Skalitz, where the Austrians claim the victory. Besides, if the Prussian account represented the truth, the Prussian army would have been in the hands of the Austrians at Josephstadt, instead of their having capitulated fall back; so that the dispatch of the commander-in-chief, dated the same evening, is from Reimsch, a place actually in Prussian territory, and near Glatz? The Prussians on their own evidence must have retreated ten miles from Nachod, or, at least, five miles, on the evening of their pretended victory. This is a fact alone conclusive against the Prussian report of the action. The fact that the demand for an armistice came from the Prussians, and that the Austrians felt themselves in a position to defeat, also confirms the report of a Prussian defeat, nor is there any reason to suppose an admission of defeat in the Berlin telegrams relating to the conflict."

Benedek on the Austrian Victory in Italy. The news of the Austrian victory at Custoza was received with joy by the Austrian army.—Benedek himself announced the tidings to a group of excited hosts, and sent the following reply to the Emperor from Italy.

"Trium, 29th June.—Field Marshal Benedek and the whole Imperial Northern army, full of joyful admiration, send their hearty felicitations to the brave army of the South and its illustrious commander for the late glorious day of Custoza. The campaign has been a triumph for the arms of a brilliant victory to our brothers in arms. A second glorious Custoza is emblazoned on Austria's Imperial shield of honor."

At the foot of the order containing these telegrams, Marshal Benedek added the following address to the troops:

"Soldiers of the Imperial Army of the North! You will have heard with joy, and go forth to the approaching strife with increased enthusiasm, so that we shall soon inscribe on the same shield a new and glorious battle name, and announce to the Emperor a victory from the North also, for which your martial ardor is longing, and which your valor and devotion will win, to the cry of 'Long live the Emperor!'"

"Benedek." A dispatch from Ancona, June 27, says: "This morning twelve men-of-war, composing the Austrian fleet, appeared in sight of this port, but were not allowed to anchor. The Italian squadron is preparing to attack them."

The Austrian fleet consists of eight hundred and fifty-two guns, and the Italian eight hundred and eighty-two.

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THE WAR IN GERMANY.

Conflicting Accounts of the Battle of Skalitz. The London Times sums up the Austrian and Prussian reports as follows:

"It is difficult as yet to bring the Austrian and Prussian bulletins to agree as to the final result of the affair at Skalitz. The latest Prussian telegrams are from the headquarters of the Crown Prince at Reimsch, a place situated about halfway between Glatz and Nachod, and they bear the date of Wednesday evening. The Prussians, it is stated, came up with a large Austrian force at Nachod, consisting of the Zamminger corps and two divisions of cavalry. A conflict ensued, which lasted from early morn till three in the afternoon. Five Austrian guns, two standards and large numbers of their cavalry were captured by the victorious Prussians."

"So far the Prussian account, which may be perfectly correct as far as it goes. The Austrians, driven back by a superior force at Nachod, hal at 3 P. M. been pursued by their foe as far as Skalitz, on the road to Jaromir; yet, if we may believe the Austrian bulletin, dated from Josephstadt that same afternoon, at ten minutes past five, the Prussians, after having been repulsed at Nachod and Neustadt in the morning, came into collision with an Austrian army corps at Skalitz, and were repulsed after six hours' fighting, with a loss, as a Vienna telegram of yesterday adds, of eighteen guns and many prisoners. The Austrian accounts bear witness to the severe losses sustained by their army, especially in the cavalry, but leave little doubt as to their conviction that the victory was their own, and that they had been left in possession of the battle-field. It is also stated from Vienna that the Prussians had sent one of their field officers with a flag of truce to the Austrian headquarters, solicited an armistice, but that Marshal Benedek had rejected the proposal. An armistice of a few hours is often asked and readily assented to between belligerents after a sanguinary action merely for the removal of the wounded and the burial of the dead; and if such was the tenor of the Prussian message, it is difficult to conceive why Marshal Benedek should have departed from so humane a rule of civilized warfare. But, whatever might be his reason for a refusal, it is evident from that very fact that the Austrians had remained masters of the field, and this is further proved by the circumstances that the Prussian head-quarters, which had been advanced to Nachod in the afternoon of Wednesday, had fallen back as far as Reimsch that same evening."

"The Austrians, there is no doubt, had the best in this encounter, though the advantage they obtained may have been by no means decisive.—"

Somewhat astonished at reading with no opposition in their invasion of Saxony, the Prussians have been for this last week feeling their way at every point on the frontier of Bohemia and Austrian Silesia, until, wearied with their vain efforts to push forward through no less than three of the mountain defiles, they have been obliged to retreat. At Turnau, Trautman and other places they drove back the Austrian outposts; but as their columns advanced, they found themselves in presence of the army of Benedek, which, massed behind Josephstadt and Pardubitz, had long been on the watch for them, and was ready for a spring upon them, had time to draw up and deploy their forces in the open country. So far as it is possible to judge from the imperfect and somewhat conflicting reports we have received, it would be natural to infer that the onward march of Prussian invasion has been checked for the present, and that a further advance into Bohemia will be found impracticable.

"We do not know how much weight should be given to the partial success of the army under Prince Frederick Charles at Turnau and Trautman, but it must needs be barren of general results unless seconded by corresponding victories on the part of the army under the Crown Prince. Benedek, resting on the two strongest of Josephstadt and Koniggratz, commands the junction of all the railway lines which lead by Pardubitz, on the west to Prague, and on the east and south to Brunn, Olmutz and Vienna. Had even the Prussian leaders been able to disengage all their forces from the mountain defiles, and to bring them to a compact mass into the plain, they would still have had to compete with an equal and, in all probability, a superior force, and the struggle would have been on the enemy's own ground, where he had the choice of his own positions, and where his railways enabled him at any moment to muster up all the means and resources of the Empire."

"The encounter between the Austrians and Prussians at Osvecin, on the frontier of Galicia, ended, after a ten hours' struggle, in the defeat of the Prussian army, and the capture of the Vistula. The forces engaged on either side did not exceed a single brigade, but the Prussian losses are described as severe. The Prussians seem to have been more fortunate on the side of Austrian Silesia, where they entered Troppan, the principal town, without meeting any resistance. They were equally successful in preventing the escape of the Hanoverians, whom, as our readers are aware, they have been holding closely beleaguered since their first inroad into their king's domain. The Hanoverians tried to force their way at Langensala, where they had only to deal with six thousand Prussians, whom they hoped to overpower. The Hanoverians were, however, beaten back, and marched northward, it is supposed, towards Soudershausen."

The Pall Mall Gazette of June 29 says: "There would be a flat contradiction between the Austrian and Prussian accounts of the battle that has taken place in Bohemia, but for a conspicuous difference of dates. Either side claims the victory; on either guns, standards and prisoners have been taken; and what is, perhaps, even more circumstantial, the dispatch of each commander-in-chief describes his enemy in full retreat."

It is rather singular that the Prussian intelligence has been so far from being deceived by the three o'clock in the afternoon. Nor is there any information in the official dispatch, from the Prussian headquarters of any contest whatever having taken place at Skalitz, where the Austrians claim the victory. Besides, if the Prussian account represented the truth, the Prussian army would have been in the hands of the Austrians at Josephstadt, instead of their having capitulated fall back; so that the dispatch of the commander-in-chief, dated the same evening, is from Reimsch, a place actually in Prussian territory, and near Glatz? The Prussians on their own evidence must have retreated ten miles from Nachod, or, at least, five miles, on the evening of their pretended victory. This is a fact alone conclusive against the Prussian report of the action. The fact that the demand for an armistice came from the Prussians, and that the Austrians felt themselves in a position to defeat, also confirms the report of a Prussian defeat, nor is there any reason to suppose an admission of defeat in the Berlin telegrams relating to the conflict."

Benedek on the Austrian Victory in Italy. The news of the Austrian victory at Custoza was received with joy by the Austrian army.—Benedek himself announced the tidings to a group of excited hosts, and sent the following reply to the Emperor from Italy.

"Trium, 29th June.—Field Marshal Benedek and the whole Imperial Northern army, full of joyful admiration, send their hearty felicitations to the brave army of the South and its illustrious commander for the late glorious day of Custoza. The campaign has been a triumph for the arms of a brilliant victory to our brothers in arms. A second glorious Custoza is emblazoned on Austria's Imperial shield of honor."

At the foot of the order containing these telegrams, Marshal Benedek added the following address to the troops:

"Soldiers of the Imperial Army of the North! You will have heard with joy, and go forth to the approaching strife with increased enthusiasm, so that we shall soon inscribe on the same shield a new and glorious battle name, and announce to the Emperor a victory from the North also, for which your martial ardor is longing, and which your valor and devotion will win, to the cry of 'Long live the Emperor!'"

"Benedek." A dispatch from Ancona, June 27, says: "This morning twelve men-of-war, composing the Austrian fleet, appeared in sight of this port, but were not allowed to anchor. The Italian squadron is preparing to attack them."

The Austrian fleet consists of eight hundred and fifty-two guns, and the Italian eight hundred and eighty-two.

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Latest Official Austrian Dispatch